THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Tuesday, 21st July 1953.

The House met in the Assembly Chamber, Government Estate, Mount Road, at half-past eight of the clock, Mr. Speaker (THE HON. SRI J. SIVASHANMUGAM PILLAI) in the Chair.

I.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS.

Flood Relief in Malabar.

* 777-A *Q.*—SRI NARAYANA KURUP: Will the Hon. the Minister for Land Revenue be pleased to state the extent of the damage suffered in Malabar on account of the recent floods and the steps taken by the Government to relieve the distress?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER:—" From the report so far received from the Collector, the extent of damage is as follows:—

(1) Chirakkal taluk—About 330 houses damaged or destroyed.

(2) Ponnani taluk—About 135 huts collapsed.

(3) Kurumbranad taluk—15 or 16 heads of cattle reported to be lost.

" In Beipur and Badagara, there has been some sea erosion on account of which 147 and 100 coconut trees respectively were uprooted. Full details have not yet been received as communications have been cut off by the floods and the interior places are inaccessible.

" Grants have been sanctioned to the affected persons for the reconstruction of their damaged or destroyed huts, wherever necessary."

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP:—" This is a matter which cannot be covered by supplementaries. I request a half-hour debate on this, Sir."

MR. SPEAKER:—" I have no objection."

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM:—" We have got an adjournment motion to be discussed to-day between 4 and 6 p.m. That itself will be a great strain on hon. Members."

MR. SPEAKER:—" I totally forgot about it. To-day the House sits from 8-30 a.m. to 1-30 p.m. and then from 4 to 6 p.m. We shall take up the half-hour debate to-morrow."

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI:—" Is it the idea that half-hour debates can be had for the asking in every case? "

MR. SPEAKER:—" In England, it is the case, because no vote is taken and only a few Members take part in the debate."

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THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI:—"What are we to do, Sir? We go on complaining there is no rain and pray for it. When it comes we are upset. When it does not come, we object."

SRI T. C. NARAYANA NAMBIAR:—"That is not the matter, Sir . . ."

MR. SPEAKER:—"I have allowed a half-hour debate. No more discussion will be allowed."

Alleged death of Sri Pasupuleti Rangayya in police lock-up of Muthukur Police Station.

* 777-B *Q.*—SRI K. KRISHNA RAO: Will the Hon. the Chief Minister be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that a person named Pasupuleti Rangayya of Kakeepalli, Nellore taluk, was arrested on 4th July 1953; whether he was produced before a Court of law subsequently and whether it is a fact that he was found dead in the Police lock up of Muthukur Police Station on 14th July 1953; and

(*b*) whether it is a fact that the father of the deceased made a representation to the Government about (*a*) and if so, what action was taken on the said representation?

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI:—"(*a*, & (*b*) Rangaiah concerned in Burglary Case Crime No. 146 of 1953, Muthukur Police Station, committed suicide in the station lock-up by hanging himself. Government have not received any representation as mentioned in the question. In connection with the question put by the hon. Member, inquiries were made and the facts ascertained are as follows:—

'There was a house-breaking in Kekupalli in Muthukur station limit on 4th July 1953. Rangaiah and two others were suspected. All of them were found to be away from their normal residences and absconding and on 13th July 1953 at about 2 p.m. the Sub-Inspector, Muthukur, traced Rangaiah at Nellore. When he was questioned, Rangaiah gave a statement which led to the recovery of almost the whole property lost. He was sent over to the police station in Muthukur, which he reached with a constable at about 9-30 p.m. After necessary formalities, he was put in the lock up at 10 p.m.

Between 5 and 6 a.m. on the 14th the sentry on duty found Rangaiah hanging inside the cell. The deceased appears to have used his lungi and another cloth for this purpose. As soon as this was noticed, the Joint Magistrate, Gudur, was informed, who arrived and made inquiries. The body was sent for post-mortem and the examination showed that there were no injuries excepting the ligature mark round the neck; the doctor gave his opinion that death was due to asphyxia as a result of hanging. The Joint Magistrate's report has not yet been received.